

deliberate that it seemed as if timed to slow music. One spectator described it as like the swing of a two-minute pendulum. At frequent intervals there would be a complete stoppage; half a dozen or more of the "laborers" would

swing of a six-minute pendulum. At frequent intervals there would be a complete stoppage; half a dozen or more of the "laborers" would saunter off together to the water pump; even time a train passed the whole gang ceased their exertions and turned to look at it; and at noon and at 5 o'clock they quitted their work with a punctuality that was often even ahead of time. A slight that would have been ludicrous if it were not so sad, was the operation of pumping water where it had settled in a gully. The pump needed a long, fast stroke; with the lazy movements of the men not one stroke in half a dozen caught the water or lifted it to the spout.

This was not an exceptional case. Just such work—if it can be so called—may be seen daily in our streets, and on town boulevards.

that it now surpasses everything they have seen in the art for it is an art that new laborers do not at once acquire—of dawdling. Perhaps it has reached its limit of development; indeed any more ridiculous pretense of labor is scarcely conceivable. Gen. Porter, testifying on the subject, seems to regard this as an inevitable result where day labor is employed. Its advantage is that better work is ultimately done than under the contract system, the materials used being always more carefully selected. But it may be doubted whether the gain thus secured compensates for the evident extravagance of the present system. He suggests that the smaller and less important works be done by contract; but he seems no help in the matter as to the greater ones. The day-labor system serves political purposes more readily than the contract plan; the laborers have votes; there are scores of men employed in overseeing their work, or pretending to, in keeping records, and the like. Hence the labor of our city has become a part of the political machine. It is by no means certain that smashing the machine would mend matters. It is, however, only too evident that things are not in a way to better themselves. There is no prospect of improvement under the day-labor system. There is just a bare possibility that honest work might sometimes be got by contract. A choice of evils is the best that political institutions offer.

ence of an concurrence which has given Mr. Shafer himself great pain will be read by the legal profession and citizens generally with profound emotion. In an unguarded moment Mr. Shafer was "betrayed into putting his thoughts into language" to such an extent that he spoke of Judge Davis in open court as a "perfectly infamous judge" and Judge Daniel as "a mere spaniel." It must be admitted, even by Mr. Shafer's warmest admirers, that this was somewhat exceeding the limits of forensic debate, and we were not surprised when Judge Lawrence announced the other day that he should feel bound to report "the occurrence" to the General Term. Mr. Shafer has now voluntarily come forward and said—we are not quite clear what he has said, except that he is sorry it happened, as indeed he very well may be, and that he is not actuated by fear, since "the meaning of that word personally he does not understand." We are assured upon the highest authority—that of Mr.

manor toward the bench has been uniformly courteous, a combination we suppose of the courage of a lion with the tenderest consideration of others' weakness; and in short, considering the heroism of his character and the elegant grace of his manners, it is very plain that the tortures he has suffered during the past week must have been excruciating.

The fast mail train has had the usual experience most good things suffer while they are new. So much was expected of it that it was overloaded with work at the outset, and every trivial lapse was exaggerated into an utter breakdown. Then it had for critics a multitude of newspapers which unwisely considered it hostile to their interests, and watched for every chance to say an unkind word of it. But in the face of all difficulties it has been gradually getting into excellent working order. We hear fewer and fewer complaints every day from

The Pope had an interview recently with a